

Lee Elkins
April 2021 Report

To the brethren

We are in a pandemic (covid-19) and quite honestly, I am completely over it. I am not saying that it wasn't real. **My wife and I both had it.** We have known people who have had it. There have been people to die from complications of covid-19. Through it all, I am afraid that many have feared an illness more than they have God. Fear is driving many people away from God.

Many of my recent sermons have been addressing the topic of the resurrection. I guess you could say that it has been my "theme" for the past several months. No doubt my preaching has been influenced due to the recent debates that have happened with brother Bruce Reeves and brother John Welch regarding the second coming of Jesus. In my discussions outside of the local church (people from other denominations), I have found that a lot of people do not believe in the resurrection. They believe that it is just a "feel good" story. It boggles my mind that these people claim to believe in Jesus yet they deny his bodily resurrection. In John 11:25-26, Jesus tells Martha "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" Regarding this pandemic as I mentioned above, people do not believe this passage. John 11 is a passage that tends to be misunderstood by many. It should show us the importance of our spiritual life. Where do we stand with God? Do we glorify God? Do we glorify Jesus? I have had people look at me as if I were crazy for wanting to invite them to services, to want to go to their homes or have them come to my home for a bible study. This physical life is not the end, it is simply the beginning. While we do need to take precautions by being careful and remaining safe. We do not put our spiritual obligations on hold simply because of an illness. As Jesus asked, do you believe this?

I am still teaching our Sunday morning bible class. We are in the book of Acts currently about halfway through the book. Our Wednesday evening study has now transitioned into the book of Proverbs with brother Robbie Baughn continuing to teach the adult class. Our attendance dipped for a few weeks due to one of our men being asked to preach at 6th Ave in Pine Bluff and West 65th St in Little Rock so him and his wife were gone for over a month. It was really nice to have them back with us. I was recently invited to preach at the Hwy 79 Church of Christ in Pine Bluff as well back on April 18th. I was able to preach two lessons for them and it was wonderful to visit

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with everyone there. It had been a while since I had traveled anywhere to preach, and it felt really good to speak to a different audience. I had cold hands before I started which used to happen to me all the time before I would speak. I was nervous but in a good way. More excited is probably a better way to describe it!

I am sure most assemblies have had to deal with the same issues recently regarding trying to be as normal as possible. We are small so this has been easier for us. I know of many groups that have had to split their services up due to size. I pray that all has been going well for everyone, but I am thankful that we were able to go back to our normal scheduled services.

Our family is doing well. My wife and I both had covid, thankfully our boys did not. If they did, they were never sick. I have been having to change medications for my type 2 diabetes due to my insurance coverage. My doctor explained it to me simply saying that they want me to try a different medication before they will pay on the medication that he wanted me to try. My blood sugar hasn't been terrible, but I was having some side effects that I was not too fond of. Within a week of being off the other medication, I stopped having those side effects. In other news, we are almost done with the first year of home schooling our boys. We have learned a lot. (Teachers deserve higher pay!) The only way we would put our kids back in public school is if they really wanted to go back. They are enjoying being able to go at their own pace (within reason of course).

I pray that all is going well with you all! If at any point in time you all need me to come speak, please feel free to reach out and we can work out a time for me to come share the Gospel. I really do hope everyone is staying safe. I appreciate the continued support so that I am able to continue to work with the local church here in Monticello.